

## Jackie Mosher

---

**From:** Robert Gordon <rmgordon1580@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2016 8:55 PM  
**To:** jmosher@house.mi.gov; Jackie Mosher  
**Subject:** Written testimony in connection with SB 853  
**Attachments:** 11778958\_876862095684663\_1173301132\_o.jpg

Dear Sens Schmidt, Kowall, MacGregor, O'Brien and Hertel:

Due to schedule conflicts I may be unable to attend tomorrow's Commerce Committee Hearing. Therefore, I am submitting this brief written testimony instead.

I am at a total loss as to the rationale to offer 853, which as I read, would prevent local units of government from banning plastic shopping bags, Limited government? I don't think so.

Why the heavy hand on this matter? There is zero dispute as to the fact that plastic shopping bags are an economic and environmental burden. Nationally, we go through 100 billion shopping bags per year, which cost retailers something like \$4 billion per year. This exercise uses 12 million barrels of oil per year. Many grocers actually pay customers to bring their own reusable bags.

After being led by cities like San Francisco and Los Angeles, last year California banned plastic shopping bags, statewide. And that is just the point. If Michigan is going to move past plastic bags, it is an effort that will start with cities. Why would we ever want to be addicted to a product as damaging as plastic shopping bags, is beyond me.

For a bit of levity, I am attaching a photo I took when I was in Uganda in summer, 2015. It is a grocery store notice of that nation's ban on plastic shopping bags, effective April, 2015.

With best regards,

Robert Gordon  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
734 353 9223

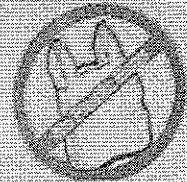


Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)



## Make Uganda a Plastic bag (Kaveera) free country

# STOP THE USE OF POLYETHYLENE (PLASTIC) CARRIER BAGS (KAVEERA)



Effective 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**Use of  
Polyethylene  
(Plastic)  
carrier bags  
(Kaveera)  
in Uganda is  
Banned**

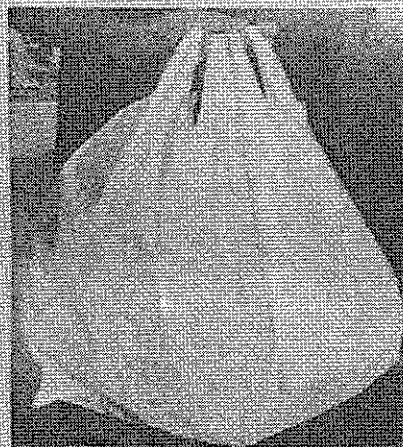
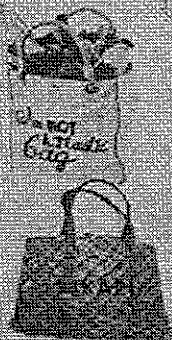
Supermarkets, markets and shop outlets will not be allowed to use or supply polyethylene (plastic) carrier bags (kaveera) to their customers.

### Alternatives to Polyethylene (plastic) bags (kaveera)

Bring your bag for shopping

- Craft cloth bags e.g. kikopini are strong and re-usable.
- Nylon bags can be used and reused several times.
- Ladies, make a fashion statement and carry a wicker basket!
- Use biodegradable bags made from fabrics or recycled paper.

**REUSE, RECYCLE, REDUCE**



### Polyethylene (plastic) bags (kaveera) are harmful to the environment

- Plastic bags are made from non-renewable resources and are not biodegradable, taking 100 years to decompose.
- They are a major source of pollution and litter, causing visual pollution and health hazards.
- They are a major source of pollution and litter, causing visual pollution and health hazards.
- They are a major source of pollution and litter, causing visual pollution and health hazards.
- They are a major source of pollution and litter, causing visual pollution and health hazards.



Some  
plastic bags  
(kaveera)  
are recyclable,  
return them  
for recycling

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NEMA)**

P.O. Box 222, Kampala, Uganda • Tel: 255 444 2222 • Fax: 255 444 2222 • Email: [info@nema.go.ug](mailto:info@nema.go.ug) • Website: [www.nema.go.ug](http://www.nema.go.ug)